

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 020644Z JUL 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3310

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0874

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ,SY

SUBJ: POPULAR CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE
AND LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

1. THE POPULAR CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE AND THE LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT BEGAN IN
BAGHDAD ON JUNE 26 UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF PRESIDENT BAKR.
CONFERENCE WAS SPONSORED BY THE ARAB BATH SOCIALIST PARTY
AND THE PROGRESSIVE PATRIOTIC NATIONAL FRONT (NOT BY GOI).
DELEGATES WERE INVITED IN THE PERSONAL CAPACITIES AND
REPRESENTED A MOTELY COLLECTION OF LEFTIST TRADE UNIONISTS,
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, JOURNALISTS, STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS,
PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS, INTELLECTUALS, AND POLITICAL
SPLINTER GROUPS SUCH AS THE EGYPTIAN PATRIOTIC, PROGRESSIVE,
AND UNITARIST RALLY WHOSE DELEGATION ARRIVED UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP
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OF KAMALADIN RAFAAT.

2. EGYPTIAN LEFT SEEMED PARTICULARLY WELL REPRESENTED BY SUCH LUMINARIES AS LUTFI AL-KHOULI, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF AL-TALIA, AND AHMED HAMROUSH OF ROSE AL YOUSIF. A SOMEWHAT NERVOUS OLD EGYPTIAN POLITICAL PRO, HAFIDM AL BADAWI, APPARENTLY HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEEPING EGYPTIANS FROM STRAYING TOO FAR FROM OFFICIAL EGYPTAIN RESERVATION UNDER STIMULATION OF REVOLUTIONARY REJECTIONIST ARAB RHETORIC.

3. PALESTINAINS WERE REPRESENTED BY MOHAMMED ZUBDI AL-NASHASHIBI OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ISSAM ABDUL LATIF OF THE DPFLP, AND AHMED ABDUL RAZZACK, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PALESTINIAN STUDENT UNION. AAPSO WAS REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY-GENERAL. PRESS REPORTED THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS ARRIVED FROM SUDAN, ERITREA AND MOROCCO.

4. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR WHO ATTENDED OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES, APPARENT PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WAS TO GENERATE ANTI-SYRIAN PROPAGANDA AMONG INTELLECTUAL ELEMENTS IN ARAB WORLD. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE OF JUMBLATT'S ORGANIZATION MADE IMPRESSIVE AND EMOTIONAL SPEECH. PLO REP NASHASHIBI'S SPEECH WAS MUCH LESS IMPRESSIVE BUT EQUALLY EMOTIONAL.

5. PRESIDENT BAKR MADE WELCOMING SPEECH WHICH CONTAINED STANDARD IRAQI LINE ATTEMPTING TO LINK SYRIAN REGIME WITH "IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST PLOTS TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS". BAKR JUSTIFIED IRAQI TROOP BUILD UP ON SYRIAN BORDER AS INDICATION OF IRAQI WILLINGNESS TO RECONSTITUTE "NORTHERN FRONT", BUT GAVE NO HINTS CONCERNING IRAQ'S NEXT MOVES.

6. COMMENT: CONFERENCE IS ONE MORE SALVO IN BITTER IRAQI-SYRIAN RIVALRY. EGYPTIANS ARE NOT PRIMARY TARGET OF THIS EFFORT ALTHOUGH SADAT HAS GONE CONSIDERABLY FURTHER DOWN THE "COLLABORATIONIST" ROAD THAN ASSAD. IRAQI GOAL SEEMS TO BE TO GENERATE DISCONTENT IN SYRIAN IN HOPES THAT RIVAL BAATHI REGIME IN DAMASCUS WILL BE OVERTHROWN.

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